

Facts About...

HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Program
<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/apu/epi>
206-296-4645



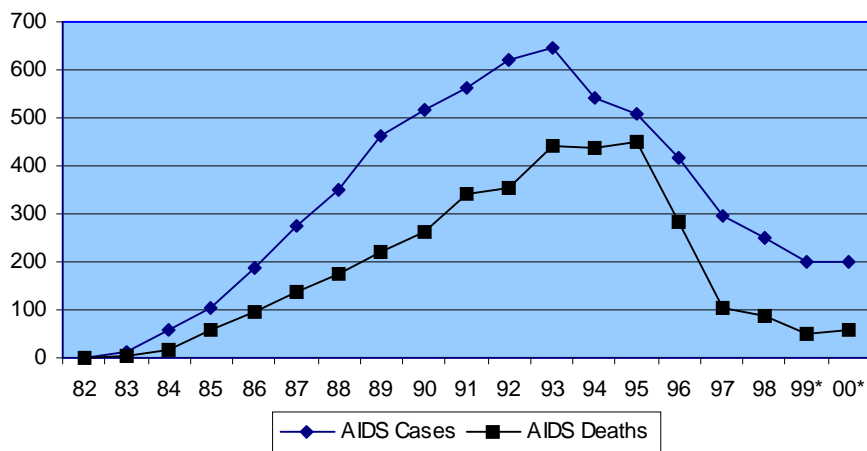
AIDS in King County

SUMMARY: HIV infection and AIDS continue to have a major impact on the health of King County. Between 6,000 and 9,000 residents of our county are estimated to be infected with HIV (including over 2,500 living with AIDS) and, as of 12/00, 3,574 (59%) of the 6,096 persons ever diagnosed with AIDS had died. HIV/AIDS was the leading cause of death among 25-44 year old men in King County from 1989 to 1996, surpassing accidents, suicide, cancer, and heart disease. However, deaths declined rapidly beginning in 1996 and by 1998 HIV/AIDS had dropped to the fifth leading cause of deaths among King County men in this age group. The decrease in deaths means that the number of persons living with AIDS in King County is at an all time high. New annual AIDS cases peaked in 1993 and have declined since then. Declines have been most prominent among White gay men with lesser declines among women and people of color.

STATUS AND TRENDS IN KING COUNTY AIDS CASES:

- Through 2000, a cumulative total of 6,096 King County residents including 5,803 (95%) males and 293 (5%) females, had been reported with AIDS.
- King County has 29% of the state's population but 62% of living AIDS cases.
- 82% of the King County AIDS cases resided in the city of Seattle at the time of diagnosis, but cases have occurred in residents of all areas of the county.

AIDS Cases and Deaths in King County by Year, 1982-2000

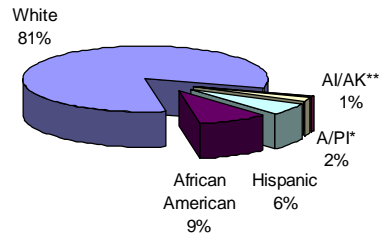


*AIDS cases and deaths adjusted for reporting delay; deaths are those among persons who were King County residents at the time of their AIDS diagnosis.

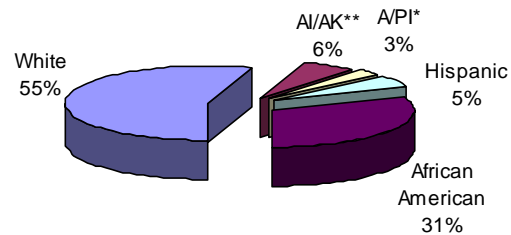
- AIDS occurs at relatively young ages: 48% of cumulative King County cases were age 30-39 years at diagnosis and 91% were age 20-49 years.
- The numbers of pediatric AIDS cases (age < 13 at diagnosis) in King County are low, with a cumulative total of 15, of which only 5 were diagnosed in the past 5 years. Of the 15 pediatric cases, 14 (93%) were perinatally acquired and 1 (7%) was due to treatment of hemophilia.
- King County residents of color -- especially women -- are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS: African Americans represent 5.3% of the population but 17% of AIDS cases diagnosed in 1999-00 and 10% of cumulative cases. Hispanics represent 3.5% of the population but 12% of the AIDS cases diagnosed in 1999-00 and 6% of cumulative AIDS cases.

- Of the 6,096 cumulative AIDS cases, 4,882 (80%) were White, 632 (10%) African American, 374 (6%) Hispanic, 117 (2%) Asian/Pacific Islander, and 91 (1.5%) American Indian/Alaska Native. The pie charts below show the racial breakdown of male and female AIDS cases in King County.

AIDS Cases 1982-2000 by Sex and Race



Males N = 5,803

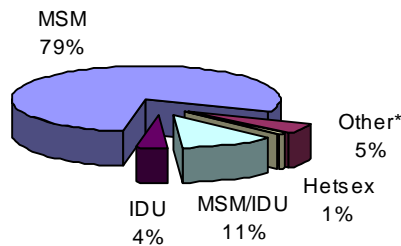


Females N = 293

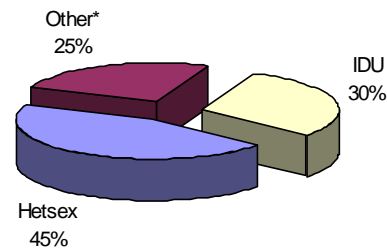
*Asian/Pacific Islander **American Indian/Alaska Native

- Of all cumulative AIDS cases, 75% were in men who had sex with other men (MSM), 10% in MSM who were also injection drug users (IDU), 6% were in heterosexual IDU, 3% were due to heterosexual contact with a person at risk for or infected with HIV, and the remaining 6% were due to transfusion (1%), treatment for hemophilia (<1%), mother at risk for HIV (<1%), or unidentified risk (4%). The pie charts below show how exposure category differed by sex in King County cases.

AIDS Cases 1982-2000 by Sex and HIV Exposure Category



Males N = 5,803



Females N = 293

*transfusion (Male: 1%, Female: 7%), hemophilia (M: 1%), unidentified risk (M: 3%, F: 15%), mother at risk (M:<1%, F:3%)

- Analyses of trends over time show increases in the proportion of King County AIDS cases occurring in women, injection drug users, African Americans, Hispanics, persons residing outside of the city of Seattle, and those attributed to heterosexual transmission.
- People of color were 11% of cases in the mid-1980s compared to 35% in 1998-00. Cases diagnosed among women increased from 3% in the late 1980s to 10% of cases in 1998-00. While the proportion of cases among men who have sex with men declined from about 90% of cases diagnosed in the late 1980's to 72% in 1998-00, gay and bisexual men still comprise the great majority of King County AIDS cases.